



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

3 GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED BY ICE, FBI AND CLAYTON COUNTY PD

ATLANTA—Three local gang members were arrested here Thursday by special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and officers of the Clayton County Police Department.

Among the arrested was 21-year-old Juan Carlos Perez-Gonzalez, a citizen of Mexico linked to the Hard Times Surenos gang. Perez-Gonzalez admitted to being in the country illegally, waived the opportunity to go before an immigration judge and accepted a stipulated order of removal. His removal from the country is imminent.

Also arrested were Francisco Bernabe-Ortiz, 19, and 18-year-old Pedronilo Saguilan. Both men openly admitted to being members of the Westside Via Locos gang.

“Law enforcement partnerships are what keep criminals like these off the streets,” said Kenneth A. Smith, special agent-in-charge in Atlanta. “Those who have no legal right to remain in the country and that terrorize our community will be found, arrested and deported.”

Saguilan, who was found with approximately a half pound of marijuana at the time of his arrest, has been charged by the Clayton County Police Department with possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. He will be transferred into ICE custody upon the resolution of the drug charges.

Perez-Gonzalez and Bernabe-Ortiz are in ICE custody awaiting their removal from the country.

These arrests are the latest enforcement actions under Operation Community Shield, an ICE anti-gang initiative launched in February to disrupt, dismantle and assist in criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE. The initial target of Operation Community Shield was MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the country.

In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE's Operation Community Shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation's communities.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.